



Department of Homeland Security Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 01 December 2003

Current Nationwide Threat Level is



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www.whitehouse.gov/homeland

Daily Overview

- The Mercury News (CA) reports that police arrested a suspect in the theft of a computer that held the personal information of thousands of banking customers. (See item [4](#))
- CanWest News Service reports that the creation of new Homeland Security department is expected in Canada. (See item [14](#))
- National Defense Magazine report that some states are turning to state guards/state defense forces to perform many of the homeland–security and disaster–response functions normally performed by the National Guard and reserves. (See item [15](#))

DHS/IAIP Update *Fast Jump*

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: Elevated, Cyber: Elevated

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://esisac.com>]

1. *November 29, New York Times* — Nuclear agency changes its stance on a fire safety proposal. After years of struggling to make reactor owners modify their plants to protect electrical cables from fire, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is now proposing to amend its own rules, retroactively legalizing an alternate strategy used by many plants but never formally approved. The change involves the cables that connect the control room with pumps, valves and other equipment needed to shut down a plant safely. Previously, the commission wanted the reactors to separate the control cables for redundant equipment, or

install fire detection and suppression equipment or fire barriers, so a single fire could not disable all the cables. It now proposes to accept letting the plants designate technicians who would run through the plant and operate equipment by hand if the control cables had burned away. **Under a proposal published in the Federal Register on Wednesday, November 26, the commission's staff would not evaluate the feasibility of such a solution, instead, the reactor operators would draw up the plans.** Mr. Weerakkody, the NRC section chief for fire protection and special studies, said that under the new proposal his agency would have a uniform set of criteria for approving "operator manual action" plans made by the plant managers. The proposal is available online:

http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/fedreg/a031126c.html

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/11/29/politics/29NUKE.html>

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Chemical Sector

2. *November 27, United Nations Environment Program* — **Treaty on hazardous chemicals and pesticides trade to become law. Armenia became the 50th country Wednesday, November 26, to ratify the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, triggering the 90-day countdown to the treaty's entry into force.** "This new regime offers its member Governments, particularly in developing countries, the tools they need to protect their citizens, clean up obsolete stockpiles of pesticides and strengthen their chemicals management," said Klaus Toepfer, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP). Jointly supported by UN Food and Agriculture Organization and UNEP, the Rotterdam Convention establishes a first line of defence against future tragedies that may be caused by hazardous chemicals. **The Convention enables importing countries to decide which potentially hazardous chemicals they want to receive and to exclude those they cannot manage safely.** Most of the Parties of the Rotterdam Convention, so far, are developing countries. **When trade is permitted, requirements for labelling and providing information on potential health and environmental effects will promote safer use of chemicals. The Convention starts with 27 chemicals, but five more pesticides have already been flagged for inclusion, and many more substances are likely to be added in the future.**

Source: <http://www.enn.com/direct/display-release.asp?objid=D1D1366D000000F922F95BAAA9B363E7>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

3. *November 26, Aerospace Daily* — **Army fits helicopters with newer countermeasure dispenser systems. The U.S. Army, responding to missile attacks on its helicopters, is fitting them with newer countermeasure dispensers, according to a spokesperson for the service. The M-130 dispenser is being replaced with the ALE-47, which puts out "four times as many countermeasures, flares or chaff, depending on what you're trying to defeat," said Major Gary Tallman. Flares defend against heat-seeking missiles and chaff**

deflects radar-guided missiles. The ALE-47, like the M-130 and the ALQ-156, are made by a private defense contractor. Joan Ferguson, a company spokesperson, said the company has helped upgrade the system since it was deployed by the Army some time ago, but she declined to be specific about the company's role now. Tallman said the Army already has received funding for the ALE-47 modification.

Source: http://www.aviationnow.com/avnow/news/channel_aerospacedaily_story.jsp?id=news/fit11263.xml

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Banking and Finance Sector

4. *November 27, The Mercury News (CA)* — **Suspect arrested in theft of PC with bank data. Police arrested a suspect in the theft of a computer that held the personal information of thousands of Wells Fargo customers. Wells Fargo officials said Wednesday, November 26, that it appears that the suspect had not misused any of the information, which included names, addresses, account numbers and Social Security numbers.** Edward Jonathan Krastof was arrested Tuesday, November 25, at the Home Depot in Concord, CA, where he worked, said Sgt. Steve White of the Concord Police Department. Krastof is accused of burglarizing several offices on Clayton Road in Concord on November 1 or 2 and stealing three computers and other items. A computer stolen from one of the offices, EPS Consulting — a company that worked with Wells Fargo — held information about thousands of customers in many states who had personal lines of credit from the bank. **White said Krastof was arrested after he allegedly logged on to America Online from his home on one of the stolen computers, using the computer owner's AOL account.** Authorities issued a search warrant to AOL to find the phone line used to access the account.

Source: <http://www.bayarea.com/mld/mercurynews/business/7362537.htm>

5. *November 27, Reuters* — **Tougher measures against 'Nigerian Letter' scam. Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo said on Wednesday, November 26, he would step up measures against his country's notorious junk-mail conmen who swindle people around the world out of hundreds of millions of dollars annually.** The so-called 419 scam, named after an article in Nigeria's penal code outlawing it, has been so successful in the past 20 years that campaigners say it is now the third to fifth largest foreign exchange earner in Africa's most populous nation. The fraud swindles people around the world, who respond to junk e-mail promising them a share of non-existent fortunes. **Obasanjo is establishing a presidential committee that he said will recommend urgent steps to deal with the scam and examine existing laws. He said the committee will also consider setting up a new agency to deal with the crime.** The committee, which is headed by Obasanjo's security adviser, has two months to submit a report to the president. Nigeria's anti-fraud agency, the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), has arrested more than 200 people, including a federal lawmaker, since May for junkmail scams.

Source: <http://star-techcentral.com/tech/story.asp?file=/2003/11/27/technology/6798932&sec=technology>

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Transportation Sector

6. *November 28, Associated Press* — **Cruise ship runs aground on Columbia River. A cruise ship ran aground on the bank of the Columbia River in Oregon, injuring a passenger and two crew members, authorities said.** The three injured people were treated at a hospital and released. **The Empress of the North, a sternwheeler, developed steering problems Thursday, November 27, about 80 miles upriver from Portland, said Third Mate Travis McKeown.** After it ran aground, the ship steered away from the river bank and moved to a barge dock, where it was tied up. The Portland-based ship had 58 passengers and 68 crew members aboard. It departed Clarkston, WA, Wednesday en route to Stevenson, WA, where it had been scheduled to dock late Thursday. Detective Sgt. Steve Conover of Wasco County, OR, said the remaining passengers stayed on board after the incident.

Source: http://abcnews.go.com/wire/US/ap20031128_947.html

7. *November 28, Reuters* — **Vietnam and America to sign air agreement. Vietnam and the United States are scheduled to finalize next month an air services agreement that would allow direct passenger and cargo flights, state media said on Saturday, November 29.** The official Vietnam News Agency said both governments would sign the agreement, which was initialed in Hanoi in early October, and will be signed in Washington during a 10-day visit by Vietnam's Deputy Prime Minister Vu Khoan starting on December 2. The pact is expected to take effect within a few months. **Several U.S. carriers have said they expected the first direct flights from America to begin in March.** The five-year pact allows two passenger carriers on each side to operate directly for the first two years, with another permitted in the third year. The five years start after the pact is signed.

Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A20372-2003Nov_28.html

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Postal and Shipping Sector

8. *November 28, Associated Press* — **Shipping firms' season gets easier with technology.** Delivery companies will be getting help from millions of customers this holiday season. **Using the Internet, many holiday shoppers will take part in the shipping process, creating their own shipping labels, or, if they're ordering online, supplying information that makes it easier for packages to be sent worldwide. As a result, UPS needs to hire only 50,000 seasonal workers, the same as last year, despite a shorter-than-usual holiday shipping season and projections that it will deliver 1 million more packages on its peak day than last year.** "Over the last five years, we've had a significant increase in package level detail that we receive electronically. It lowers our overall costs because we can automate many of our processes internally," said Mark Hopkins, a vice president in UPS' package process management division. UPS says the majority of its packages this holiday season will come in already labeled with key information such as sender, destination, weight, and the level of service. UPS uses the information to sort and route the packages, even telling truck drivers exactly where a package should be loaded onto a delivery vehicle. **FedEx expects to hire several thousand seasonal workers over the holidays to help process ground shipments, about the same number as last year. Like UPS, FedEx also is seeing an increase in online**

shipping activity this holiday season, spokeswoman Traci Barnett said.

Source: http://www.sunspot.net/technology/bal-shippers1128.0.3602220_story?coll=bal-technology-headlines

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Agriculture Sector

9. *November 28, Purdue University* — **Pasture grass fights wheat fungus.** A western American pasture grass crossed with wheat can improve resistance to a fungus that can be toxic to plants, animals, and people, according to Purdue University researchers. Resistance genes in the grass that replaced genes in wheat increased protection against Fusarium head blight, the scientists said. In the eastern United States, the upper Midwest, and other places where large amounts of corn and wheat are both grown, Fusarium is a major problem. **The fungus causes head blight that leads to major wheat crop losses. In 1996, crop losses due to Fusarium totaled at least \$38 million just in Indiana, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.** "The disease has occurred most years since the early 1990s," Herb Ohm, Purdue agronomy professor, said. The fungus also produces a mycotoxin that sickens animals and people. **Pigs, cattle, horses, poultry, and people can develop vomiting, loss of appetite, diarrhea, staggering, skin irritation, and immunosuppression when they eat grain or hay infected by Fusarium. The most severe cases can be fatal.** "Fusarium production of mycotoxins is a more serious problem than wheat production loss," Ohm said. "The toxin results in complete loss because you can't use the grain to make food for people or livestock." **The fungus can infect most cereal grains, including corn, wheat, barley, and some oats.**
Source: <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2003/11/031128082326.htm>

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Food Sector

10. *November 26, Food and Drug Administration* — **Alfalfa sprouts recalled.** Harmony Farms, LLC of Auburn, WA, is voluntarily recalling all of its 5 ounce Fresh Alfalfa Sprouts, Gourmet Salad Sprouts, and Fresh Alfalfa & Oregon Onion Sprouts. The recall was initiated because the product may be contaminated with **Salmonella**. Salmonella is an organism which can cause serious and sometimes fatal infections in young children, frail or elderly people, and others with weakened immune systems. Healthy persons infected with Salmonella often experience fever, diarrhea, nausea, vomiting and abdominal pain. In rare circumstances, infection with Salmonella can result in the organism getting into the bloodstream and producing more severe illnesses such as arterial infections, endocarditis, and arthritis. Harmony Farms' products are distributed to retail outlets, restaurants, and schools in Washington, Oregon, Alaska, and Idaho. **The company's routine product testing has not detected any contamination in the sprouts produced by Harmony Farms. To date six cases of Salmonella in Oregon have possibly been linked to the consumption of alfalfa sprouts by Oregon Department of Human Services.**
Source: http://www.fda.gov/oc/po/firmrecalls/harmony11_03.html

Water Sector

Nothing to report.

Public Health Sector

11. *November 28, Knight Ridder Newspapers* — **Experts fear flu pandemic . Experts fear the passage to human beings of a new flu strain that would spread more quickly and with deadlier effect because people don't have immunity. Such strains are now running rampant in birds and pigs. Earlier this year, newer strains hit small pockets of the world, putting flu experts on alert.** In February, a family in Hong Kong was struck with the bird flu H5N1 and one person died. In March, a poultry flu, H7N7, hit the Netherlands, killing a veterinarian. **The current method of making flu vaccines, using chicken eggs to grow two virus strains, would take too long in the midst of a pandemic.** The genetic modification method called reverse genetics and has never been used before on flu vaccines. This method could shave months from a process that now can take eight months. The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases is working on this technique for unusual flu strains, said influenza program officer Dr. Linda Lambert. Safety tests on a vaccine derived by reverse genetics will start in the fall of 2004, she said. **Anti-viral medication is in short supply.** University of Michigan epidemiology professor Arnold Monto said the U.S. government should stockpile the anti-flu medicines just as it does Cipro and other medicines to counter bioterrorism. **He noted that all the anti-flu medicines are made outside of the United States. In the event of a pandemic, other countries might hoard the supplies.**

Source: <http://www.ajc.com/health/content/health/special/1103/28flu.html>

12. *November 28, Associated Press* — **High-tech tool warns of flu outbreaks.** A high-tech tool designed to warn of bioterror attacks is helping to pinpoint influenza outbreaks in Oklahoma. The FirstWatch system used by the Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA) scans 911 calls and gathers information about the medical symptoms of patients. **The computer software has identified clusters of flu activity in Oklahoma's two largest cities from calls to EMSA dispatch centers.** The system notifies the ambulance service that it must increase staffing to treat and transport more patients, said Frank Gresh, EMSA communications director. "We weren't planning on this system being used for this reason so quickly. But it's been a big help," Gresh said. **He said FirstWatch was intended to be a biosurveillance system to quickly locate symptoms associated with anthrax, smallpox, and other bioterrorism agents.** Lately, it has picked up general flu symptoms. **FirstWatch issued its first "flu alert" November 20 when it spotted irregularities in ambulance-call volume related to flu activity in the Oklahoma City metro area. A FirstWatch flu alert for Tulsa was issued November 22.** FirstWatch has been used in other communities to detect gas leaks after a number of people complained of nausea and lightheadedness.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/tech/news/techinnovations/2003-11-28-flu-surveillance_x.htm

13. *November 28, Washington Post* — **Study finds UV works to treat sick buildings. Ultraviolet lamps can kill bacteria, mold, fungi, and other germs in the ventilation systems of office buildings preventing sick building syndrome among workers, researchers reported Thursday.** Sick building syndrome is a broad term that refers to workplaces in which employees become ill from exposure to something indoors, such as chemicals used for work; glue and other substances being emitted by furnishings; and bacteria, mold, and other microbes. The researchers installed UV irradiation systems in the air-conditioning systems of three large office buildings, irradiating the cooling coils and drip pans. The UV light killed microbes growing in the cooling systems, causing a 99 percent reduction in the concentrations of bacteria, fungi, and endotoxins, the researchers found. **Based on the findings, the researchers concluded that if UV systems were installed in most office buildings in North America, work-related health problems would be avoided in about 4 million workers. "If you put UV in the ducts, you can cut down on anything that's circulating, potentially bioterror agents," said Edward Nardell of Harvard School of Public Health.**

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A17463-2003Nov 27.html>

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Government Sector

14. *November 28, CanWest News Service* — **Creation of new Homeland Security department expected in Canada.** Paul Martin, who will become Canada's Prime Minister December 12, is expected to create a new Homeland Security department in Canada. **Government insiders say Treasury Board officials are preparing a plan to create a new security department that would be in charge of Canada Customs, the Canadian Coast Guard, emergency preparedness, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and Canadian Security Intelligence Service.** Sources said the Homeland Security plan must be approved by Martin's transition team and it is possible the new department may not be created until after the next election, expected in April. **Martin made it clear in a policy agenda document released at the Liberal leadership convention that he wants to cluster security-related responsibilities into a single department, similar to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.**

Source: <http://www.nationalpost.com/home/story.html?id=53CAE719-A8B4-49BD-8532-4E3B3014DBBE>

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Emergency Services Sector

15. *December 01, National Defense Magazine* — **State volunteers eyed for greater security role.** As officials in the Pentagon and on Capitol Hill seek ways to ease the pressure on over-deployed active-duty, National Guard and reserve troops, more and more eyes are falling upon little-known, state-operated bands of volunteers that for decades have backed up the country's regular military forces in times of emergency. At most recent count, roughly 170,000 National Guard and reserve personnel were deployed on active duty around the world. **With many of these units absent, some states are turning to their own, locally controlled organizations—typically called state guards or state defense forces—to perform many of the**

homeland–security and disaster–response functions normally performed by the National Guard and reserves. An estimated 22 states maintain defense forces, with a total strength of perhaps 12,000 men and women. The state units–unlike the National Guard–have no official, nationwide organization. They are established and operated entirely by individual states, and cannot be deployed outside their own borders. **More than a dozen members of the U.S. House of Representatives this summer co–sponsored a bill calling for increased coordination between the state defense forces and federal agencies. The bill may see action in Congress next year.**

Source: <http://nationaldefense.ndia.org/article.cfm?Id=1292>

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Information and Telecommunications Sector

16. *November 29, Washington Post* — **FCC weighs role in Internet calls.** In the month since a federal court in Minnesota ruled Voice Over Internet Protocol (VoIP) services, or calls delivered over the Internet, are not subject to state regulation, phone companies have started announcing intentions to beef up their ability to deliver phone calls over their data networks. **The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) traditionally has had a hands–off policy when it comes to regulating the Internet. But it will hold its first hearing Monday, December 1, in an effort to decide whether it needs to step into an issue that has the potential to transform the industry.** The stakes in the debate are huge. Federal and state governments could lose billions of dollars in revenue from regulatory fees if calls moved onto the Internet no longer are subject to the charges. And if the FCC chooses not to regulate Internet calls, it could raise questions about the future of the Universal Service Fund, a \$6 billion federal program funded by telephone fees that subsidizes phone service in rural areas and Internet service for schools. Because e–mail isn't regulated, phone companies say neither should Internet calls. The agenda for the VoIP forum is available on the FCC Website:

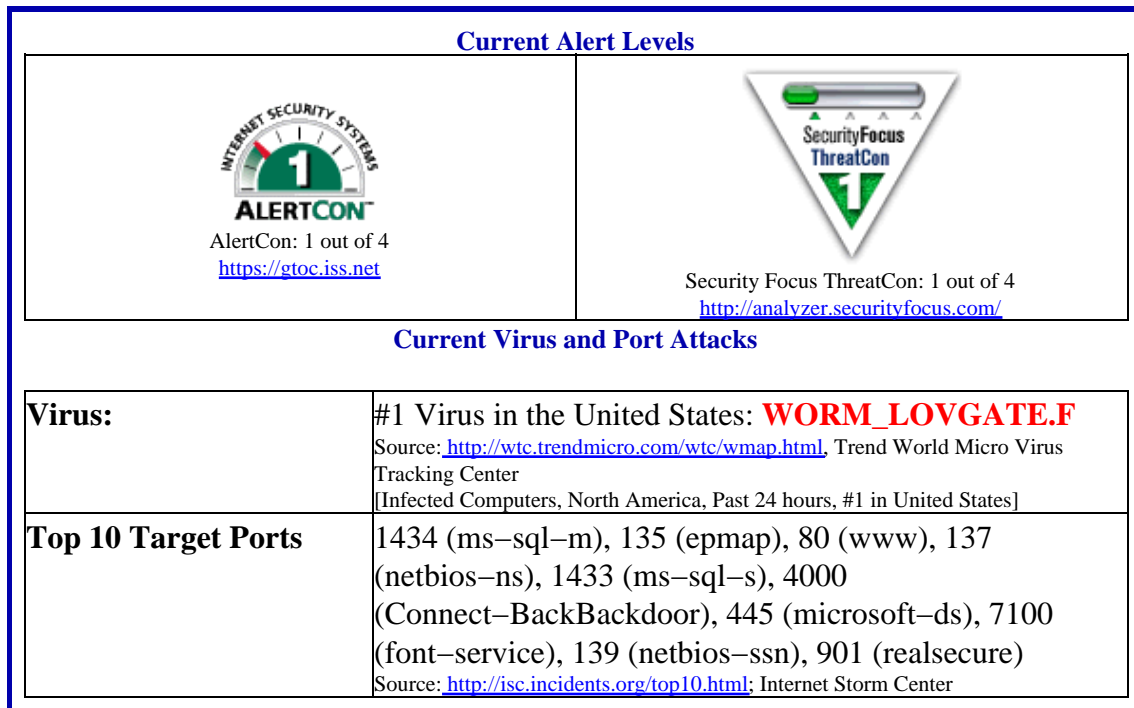
<http://www.fcc.gov/voip/>

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp–dyn/articles/A20032–2003Nov 28.html>

17. *November 28, Reuters* — **Manhattan's dead cell zones.** Mayor Bloomberg set up a hotline in October for New Yorkers to tell him where their cell phones can't get a clear signal. New York City's Department of Information Technology and Telecommunications reports that **5,000 people called the hotline to complain about their mobile service and the results show up New York as one of the worst places to make a mobile phone call.** The city recorded the locations that callers flagged as problematic, and drew maps to illustrate the results. It drew a separate map for each of the biggest six phone companies operating in New York to help consumers figure out which service they prefer. It was not a very scientific survey but **the city hopes phone companies will pay more attention now that new rules allow consumers to keep their number when changing services, making it easier to switch in protest of bad service.** The multitude of red blotches plastered on the Midtown section of the maps could just indicate that networks in these crowded neighborhoods are sometimes overloaded, rather than true dead spots, the city said. Or companies with more blotches than others could simply have more customers in New York than those that received a smaller amount of complaints.

Source: http://www.wired.com/news/wireless/0.1382.61405.00.html?tw=w_n_tophead_3

Internet Alert Dashboard



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General Sector

18. *November 28, Associated Press* — **Italy orders arrest of terror recruiters. Milan prosecutors have issued arrest warrants for five North Africans suspected of recruiting people to carry out suicide attacks in Iraq, the government said Friday.** Police in Hamburg, Germany said they had arrested an Algerian identified only as Abderrazak M. on one of the Italian warrants. **Italy's ANSA news agency reported that police in Milan had arrested two other North Africans on the warrants.** The Interior Ministry would not confirm any arrests. News reports had also reported Abderrazak M.'s arrest, saying he had been arrested in Hamburg, Germany, in July and released from custody a few months later for lack of evidence. At the time he was suspected of plotting to set off a bomb in Spain. ANSA said the five suspects, four men and a woman, are accused of association with the aim of international terrorism. **Italian news reports said that a sixth suspect, a Tunisian man, was arrested earlier this week for allegedly providing logistical support and papers to the five suspected terrorists.**

Source: <http://www.msnbc.com/news/998947.asp?0sl=-31&cp1=1>

19. *November 26, New York Times* — **Statue of Liberty gets money for reopening. The Statue of Liberty has been closed since the terrorist attack on September 11, but now there are plans to reopen the statue by next year, after security is improved at the 117-year-old statue, including the addition of emergency exits.** The National Park Service, which maintains the statue, has estimated the cost at \$5 million. On Tuesday, November 25, **Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg of New York City, announced that the National Park Service had teamed up with a private foundation and a large financial company to open a nationwide**

campaign to raise money for the statue. Cynthia Garrett, a National Park Service superintendent who oversees the Statue of Liberty, said that an opening date had not been set. Since the September 11 attack, the federal government has spent more than \$2 million to improve security at the statue and on Ellis Island. This includes the installation of metal detectors and X-ray machines where visitors board ferries to the island. There are more park police officers and private guards.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/11/26/nyregion/26LIBE.html>

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DHS/IAIP Products & Contact Information

The Department of Homeland Security's Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection (IAIP) serves as a national critical infrastructure threat assessment, warning, vulnerability entity. The IAIP provides a range of bulletins and advisories of interest to information system security and professionals and those involved in protecting public and private infrastructures. By visiting the IAIP web-site (<http://www.nipc.gov>), one can quickly access any of the following DHS/IAIP products:

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DHS/IAIP Publications – DHS/IAIP Daily Reports, CyberNotes, Information Bulletins, and other publications

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